

CITY OF LIMA
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 19, 2024 @ 7:00 PM
Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER:

The Council of the City of Lima met in regular session at 7:00 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE:

The invocation was given by President Dixon followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The roll call showed the following members present: Todd Gordon, Anthony Wilkerson, Carla Thompson, Jamie Dixon, Thomas Jones, Derry Glenn, Jon Neeper

Others in attendance were: Dana Addis – Clerk, Sharetta Smith – Mayor, Shane Coleman – Chief of Staff, Randy Bartels – Auditor, Anthony Geiger – Law Dir., Mariah Cunningham – Assistant Law Dir., Carmillia Zion – Dir. of Housing and Neighborhoods, Della Bradford – Human Resources Dir., Warner Roach – Deputy Dir. of Public Works, Ric Stolly – Deputy Dir. of Parks and Rec., Mike Caprella – Dir. of Utilities, Sara Weekley – Deputy Dir. of Utilities, Amber Martin – Workforce & Small Business Dev. Dir., Jessica Begonia – Public Information Officer, Meri Foster – Finance Dir., Debra Vobbe – Civil Service Board Dir./Sec., James Baker – Police Chief, Jack McDermitt – Deputy Fire Chief

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARING:

President Dixon called to order the Public Hearing for the vacation of an alley segment off Grand Avenue between Elizabeth Street and Main Street – Petitioned for by Heir Force Community School. There being no one wishing to speak to the alley vacation, President Dixon closed the Public Hearing.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Alice Donahue was not present to speak.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE PRESENTED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR:

- a. Minutes of the previous meeting not read since all received a copy;
- b. Bd. of Health Minutes of July 12, 2024;

- c. Treasurer's Report of July 2024.

Neeper moved, seconded by Thompson, that the consent calendar item "a" be received, filed and approved, and items "b-c" be received and filed. Motion carried.

THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATIONS WERE PRESENTED:

1. From the Auditor regarding the July 2024 finance reports.
2. From the Civil Service Dir./Sec. regarding the recommendation to amend the Budget & Investment Analyst I position.
3. From the Utilities Dir. regarding a water rate adjustment.
4. From the Chief Technology Officer regarding legislation to purchase the Rockwell Automation TechConnect Renewal.
5. From the Chief Technology Officer regarding legislation to allocation additional funds to UMS.
6. From the Public Works Dir. regarding legislation to apply for and expend funds from Visit Greater Lima.
7. From the Public Works Dir. regarding legislation to enter into an MOU with Visit Greater Lima.
8. From the Finance Dir. regarding legislation to amend the 2024 annual budget.

Neeper moved, seconded by Thompson, that communication number 2 be amended to replace the new position title from Senior Investment Analyst to Senior Financial Analyst in Section 2 and Section 4. Motion carried.

Neeper moved, seconded by Glenn, that communication numbers 1-8 be received, filed, approved as amended and authorize the Law Dir. to prepare the necessary legislation. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS:

Meri Foster, Finance Dir., provided Council with a mid-year finance update. She advised the original adopted 2024 budget shows revenue at 41.5 Mil and expenditures at 48.1 Mil and the amended 2024 budget reflects the same 41.5 Mil revenue but an increase in expenditures to 55.1 Mil. She explained the biggest difference in the expenditures includes encumbrance carryovers of 5.4 Mil and

new capital requests of \$1.25 Mil. She provided a breakdown of the 6/30/2024 actual revenue and expenditures vs. the amended budget and explained they have generated more revenue in the first six months of the year as compared to where the budget is at and have spent less than half of the budget amount. She provided a snapshot of all of the general fund revenue sources. She reviewed the historical tax collections and the actual general fund expenditures as of 6/30/2024. She reviewed the full time employee historical headcount. She explained safety services expenditures represents 50% of the total general fund expenditures. She provided the historical health insurance costs which is 5 Mil as of 6/30/2024. She pointed out the historical operating cash balance which has grown to 18.7 Mil. due to a 3 Mil. transfer out of investments and into the operating cash that recently occurred. She reviewed the enterprise funds through 6/30/2024 which includes the Water Fund, Sewer Fund, Garbage & Refuse Fund, and Stormwater Fund. (A complete copy of the presentation can be found in the Council office).

THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES WERE PRESENTED:

167-24 An Ordinance amending the 2024 Annual Budget.

Neeper moved, seconded by Glenn, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following roll call vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 7; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Dixon, Jones, Glenn, Neeper. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 7–0 vote.

168-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to amend the contract with Utility Metering Solutions, authorized under Ordinance 317-21.

Gordon moved, seconded by Wilkerson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following roll call vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 7; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Dixon, Jones, Glenn, Neeper. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 7–0 vote.

169-24 An Ordinance amending Section 246.08 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Lima, Finance Department authorized employment positions.

Neeper moved, seconded by Thompson, that the ordinance be placed on a second reading. Motion carried.

Neeper moved, seconded by Glenn, that the ordinance to refer Ordinance 169-24 to the Joint Finance and Human Resources Committee. Motion carried.

170-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Visit Greater Lima for the Lima Community Aquatic Park.

Thompson moved, seconded by Wilkerson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following roll call vote was recorded on the motion:

Yea, 7; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Dixon, Jones, Glenn, Neeper. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 7–0 vote.

Councilor Thompson expressed her appreciation to Ric Stolly for doing the work to help make this happen and recognized the fact that Mr. Stolly recognized Betsy Billingsly from Visit Greater Lima. She explained this is good for everyone and we are seeing the community stepping up to make it happen. Councilor thanked Ric Stolly because he does an outstanding job, especially when it came to bribing the Locos to the City of Lima. Councilor Wilkerson thanked everyone who is involved as he is excited for the project. President Dixon thanked Ric Stolly for the hard work that he does and also thanked Betsy with Visit Greater Lima for their contribution. He explained this is what happens when the public and private come together for the greater good of the community.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Councilor Jones explained he had an incredible time at the first annual Lima Music Festival which was a great event for the City. He reminded everyone the Teacher's Appreciation Banquet is on August 31st, 2024 where Officer Mericle and Officer Douglas will be honored. He thanked Mr. Grimsley from Rumpke who immediately took care of the issues they were having with trash in his ward.

Councilor Glenn thanked President Dixon for taking calls from people in the Ward. He announced the loss of Dr. David Adams, who was a trailblazer for the community and sat next to him on Council for 8 years. He explained Dr. Adams was a friend of his and he will be missed. He explained it was great to see everyone welcome the kids back to school at Liberty. She advised they are working on more houses in the community.

Councilor Neeper thanked everyone who was involved in National Night Out. He reminded everyone that the Allen County Fair is going on right now and encouraged them to attend. He reminded everyone what Labor Day is about. He also reminded everyone that school is back in session and encouraged everyone to be more mindful and patient when driving.

Councilor Gordon was honored to be in attendance of the music festival over the weekend and expressed how impressed he is with Downtown Lima. He reminded people to be good to each other.

Councilor Wilkerson encouraged all parents to not underestimate their responsibility in education, and encouraged them to keep up with the pats on the back for a job well done. He reminded everyone to be good neighbors.

Wilkerson moved, seconded by Thompson, to authorize a resolution of appreciation for all of the area school teachers. Motion carried.

Councilor Thompson referenced her relationship with Dave Adams who was a wonderful artist and poet and also a wonderful reader of poetry. She referenced the last time she saw Dave at the River and Rust reading. She announced there will be a Public Works meeting on Monday, August 26th at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the placement of dumpsters. She announced the Central Lima Neighborhood Association will be meeting on Weds, August 28th at 6:00 p.m. at the Lima Public Library. She recognized Ms. Denise James, President of LACNIP, who is one of Lima's unsung heroes. She explained Denise is bringing LACNIP back and making it relevant again. She thanked Denise and encouraged the public to reach out to Denise if they would like to become more involved in the community.

President Dixon announced the Peacemaker's Neighborhood Association will be meeting on Wednesday, August 21st at 5:30 p.m. which will include the Fifth Ward Forum. He explained the highlight of the music festival on Saturday was seeing Councilor Jones exhibit his art of expressing himself and knowing that Jones had been a writer for many of the musicians that were in attendance. He expressed how proud he is of Mr. Jones for allowing others to see a Council person who is freely expressing himself through the arts.

Mayor Smith asked that the issue of Traffic Calming be referred to Council of the Whole.

Dixon moved, seconded by Thompson, to refer the issue of traffic calming to the Council of the Whole Committee. Motion carried.

Mayor Smith thanked Councilor Neeper for talking about safety now that school is starting and thanked Councilor Wilkerson for bringing up the importance of education being a community responsibility. She explained one of the responsibilities in addition to being there as parents to support their children but also as a community would be us making sure that children actually attend school. She explained chronic absenteeism is an issue statewide. She advised there are communities in the State that have chronic absenteeism as high as 50% and here in City of Lima it's at 40%. She gave kudos to Lima City Schools because this is an issue that they have not ignored and have added as part of their strategic plan and started a public information campaign called "Every Day On Time". She asked that Council and the community support Lima City Schools and all of the schools in the community and making sure that "Every Day On Time" is a message that we adopt as a value in our community. She advised learning is a workforce issue, a family issue and if our kids are not in school they are not prepared to lead this community. She further advised this is an issue that the Youth Commission has joined in with Lima City Schools to take on chronic absenteeism as an issue. She referenced a meeting with the Commission where they brainstormed with community partners about how they can be supportive. She also advised this is an issue that the Ohio Mayor's Alliance Education Committee is taking up as well.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Councilor Gordon moved, seconded by Jones, that Council adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of considering the appointment of a Public Employee or Public Official. The following roll call vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 7; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Dixon, Jones, Glenn, Neeper. Nay, none. The motion carried by a 7–0 vote. Council adjourned into executive session.

Council reconvened into regular session.

Thompson moved, seconded by Jones, to authorize legislation appointing Jeannine Jordan as 4th Ward Councilor. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Gordon moved, seconded by Wilkerson, that Council adjourn until September 09, 2024. Motion carried.

Dana Addis, Council Clerk

Jamie Dixon, Council President